

GERMANS MOVING FURTHER WEST IN FIGHT FOR VERDUN

Centre of Artillery Activity Now in the Argonne Forest.

HOPE TO CUT THE SUPPLY RAILROAD

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun.
Paris, March 24.—Interest in the situation before Verdun is centered to-day on the Argonne, the wooded region to the west of the Meuse, where artillery and infantry activity has been in progress coincident with the operations nearer the town.

Military sources recognize that these Argonne operations are as much a part of the general plan against Verdun as the obvious movements further east, since the ability of the Germans to make a flank movement against the fortress of Verdun is gone.

The only activity was made yesterday against the German lines of communication all through the eastern part of the Argonne region, as well as against the Malancourt and Avescourt woods to the east. In these woods, too, the Germans are more interested, seeking an opportunity to continue their flank movement. The French guns continued their bombardment of these regions throughout the night.

French Occupy Crater.

In conjunction with the commanding of the Malancourt sector last night the French exploded mine after mine and occupied the crater. Another crater, one of a French mine-tube, close to Champigneux just south of Varennes, was followed by a lively German attack by which the Germans gained a foothold in the first line of the French trenches. A counter-attack quickly drove them out and the French taking some thirty prisoners.

On the eastern bank of the Meuse there were only intermittent bombardments, the Douaumont-Vaux-Damougeau being the centre of this activity.

Verdun Lines Bombed.

The official communiqué noted by the French War Office to-night follows: "In the Argonne, as the result of the explosion of one of our mines at Vaudon, the enemy attacked and succeeded in gaining a foothold for a moment in our first line trench. He was immediately driven back and captured by a counter-attack from the east."

The activity of our artillery against the communications of the enemy continues with intensity in the eastern Argonne and on Malancourt Wood and Avescourt Woods.

In the region north of Verdun there was no important event to report in the course of the day except an intermittent bombardment of the second lines by the west and east of the St. Mihiel, which our batteries repelled effectively.

North of St. Mihiel the fire of long range guns directed on the railway station of Vireux-Molain gave good results. An aviation raid was made and a train which was in the station was blown up.

The afternoon communiqué was as follows:

"In the Argonne district our batteries last night bombarded with success the enemy positions in Malancourt Wood. Near Hill 280 we caused the explosion of a mine and occupied the resulting crater.

West of the Meuse the night passed quietly. East of the river, too, there was quiet, but bombardment in the vicinity of Douaumont and Damougeau.

In the Meuse there have been some outbreaks of artillery fire in the sectors of Montaiguille and Les Bonyans, both sides taking part.

There has been no other development of importance on the rest of the front.

Jeffreys' Address to Army.

Gen. Joffre, commander-in-chief of the French forces, issued some days ago an address to his troops:

"The army of Verdun. For weeks you have endured the most formidable attack that the enemy has yet made against us. Germany counted upon the success of this effort, which she thought would be irresistible, and for which she concentrated her best troops and most powerful armament. She hoped the capture of Verdun would raise the courage of her allies and convince neutral countries of German superiority."

"She reckoned without you. Night and day, despite a bombardment without precedent, you resisted all attacks and held your position."

"The battle is not yet terminated, because the Germans have need of a victory. You will be able to meet them. We have munitions in abundance and numerous reserves; but we have above all your indomitable courage and your faith in the destinies of the people."

"The army has eyes upon you. We are all of those of whom it will be said: 'They turned the road to Verdun against the Germans.'"

GERMANS PUSH ON.

Take More Trenches in Region West of Haucourt.

Paris, March 24.—The London, March 24—Several more French trenches in the region west of Haucourt (immediately south of Malancourt) were added yesterday to the gains of the Germans in this region. As a result of the further advances the number of prisoners taken in this sector was increased to thirty-two officers and 870 men.

There was a considerable increase in the intensity of the artillery fire on both sides in Champagne, on the road between Rommelfan and Souain, and in the Meuse region as far as the Moselle.

The German statement said:

"The violence of the artillery duels increased considerably at times in the Champagne, on the Somme-Py-Souain road, and in the Argonne, and in the Meuse district as far as the Moselle."

Following up our successes of Wednesday we occupied another couple of trenches west of Haucourt. On this occasion the number of prisoners increased to thirty-two officers and 870 men.

Departures from Switzerland received to-day tell of dissatisfaction in France as a result of the continued German raids in the Verdun region. This dissatisfaction is expressed against the War Office and Gen. Joffre. It is reported that the Paris newspapers have been warned against criticizing Gen.

GERMAN LOSSES BIGGER.

Paris Denies Berlin Reports About Verdun Casualties.

Paris, March 23.—An official announcement was made to-day that Lord Hardinge will be made a Knight of the Order of the Garter when he retires as Viceroy of India.

"The Germans would have it believed

"PETAIN THE TERROR" ROSE SLOWLY TO HIGH ARMY RANK

Verdun Defender, 61 Years Old, Was Captain 26 Years Ago.



Copyright Underwood & Underwood.

Special Correspondent to The Sun.
Paris, March 24.—The latest "discovery" among French generals is Philippe Petain, commanding the armies around Verdun. It should not be said too hastily that he is a "great" general, for he was never full of "discoveries" who have not turned out well. The French have become enthusiastic over a number of suddenly discovered men of genius who have lost battles and fallen into popular as well as official disfavor within a few months after their rise to glory.

Gen. Joffre has not altogether escaped from this process of depreciation incidental to the varying fortunes of a long war. A better example was Gen. Foch, who for a time stood at the head of the long list of commanders who had been beaten. Many others, like Huret, after the Marne, was stronger than the Gallieni party, the Maunoury party, the Sarrail party or the de Castelnau faction. But where is Gen. Poch now?

He is probably at his headquarters, but not for the last month. He is in the running. Sarrail was sent to Verdun in spite of the socialists. Maunoury was wounded. Gallieni became a Minister, which is less heroic than being a general. De Castelnau held out about as long as the Malancourt and Avescourt woods to the east. In these woods, too, the Germans are more interested, seeking an opportunity to continue their flank movement. The French guns continued their bombardment of these regions throughout the night.

Rival of De Castelnau.

Special Correspondent to The Sun.

Paris, March 24.—Interest in the situation before Verdun is centered to-day on the Argonne, the wooded region to the west of the Meuse, where artillery and infantry activity has been in progress coincident with the operations nearer the town.

Military sources recognize that these Argonne operations are as much a part of the general plan against Verdun as the obvious movements further east, since the ability of the Germans to make a flank movement against the fortress of Verdun is gone.

The only activity was made yesterday against the German lines of communication all through the eastern part of the Argonne region, as well as against the Malancourt and Avescourt woods to the east. In these woods, too, the Germans are more interested, seeking an opportunity to continue their flank movement. The French guns continued their bombardment of these regions throughout the night.

Petain Likes Speed.

Special Correspondent to The Sun.

Paris, March 24.—The political relations between the three countries were discussed. The conference has also strengthened the understanding that if any of the three countries is compelled to enter the war, the others shall not align themselves with the aggressor.

The following is a general summary of the result of the conference:

SCANDINAVIANS IN A NEUTRAL ENTENTE

Agreement Not to Oppose One Another Reached at Recent Conference.

MAY EXTEND ALLIANCE

Special Correspondent to The Sun.
Washington, March 24.—Closer cooperation between the three Scandinavian countries is the outcome of the recent conference at Copenhagen between the Premiers and Foreign Ministers of Norway, Denmark and Sweden. The official account of the conference reached here to-day.

One result of the conference is the decision to engage "at the proper time" in negotiations with the other neutral countries to protect the rights of neutrals, as defined in international law, from the aggression of the belligerent Powers.

The conference has also strengthened the understanding that if any of the three countries is compelled to enter the war, the others shall not align themselves with the aggressor.

The following is a general summary of the result of the conference:

Results of Conference.

(1) The political relations between the three countries were discussed. The conference has also strengthened the understanding that if any of the three countries is compelled to enter the war, the others shall not align themselves with the aggressor.

(2) It was decided that at the proper time steps should be taken to obtain the cooperation of other neutrals to protect the interests of neutrals generally.

(3) It was decided to continue and to renew certain retaliatory steps made necessary on account of transgressions by belligerents on neutral rights. (This is presumed to refer to the holding up of Russian masts, engineers and supplies by the Germans.)

(4) It was decided that at the proper time steps should be taken to obtain the cooperation of other neutrals to protect the interests of neutrals generally.

(5) Steps, it was agreed, should be taken by Denmark and Sweden to mark exactly the limits of the territorial waters of each. Sweden and Norway contend for a four-mile limit, while Denmark holds to the three-mile limit.

(6) Steps, it was agreed, should be taken by Denmark and Sweden to mark exactly the limits of the territorial waters of each. Two countries, Sweden and Norway, contend for a four-mile limit, while Denmark holds to the three-mile limit.

(7) Steps, it was agreed, should be taken by Denmark and Sweden to mark exactly the limits of the territorial waters of each. Two countries, Sweden and Norway, contend for a four-mile limit, while Denmark holds to the three-mile limit.

(8) Technical measures for the safeguarding of navigation against mines were proposed. Also arrangements looking toward the stoppage of communications in the territorial waters were made.

(9) Methods of registration for vessels plying between the three countries to be subjected to revision.

Helligrads Please.

In addition to general understanding of the proposed measures to prevent the withdrawal from the Scandinavian countries of skilled labor of all kinds, an understanding was reached to-day concerning measures to be taken to distinguish between the fighting party in the background from the danger. At his own request the conference asked the British to give up the idea of sending a special committee to inspect the German lines of communication.

The conference also agreed to make a joint inspection of the German lines of communication.

The conference also agreed to make a joint inspection of the German lines of communication.

The conference also agreed to make a joint inspection of the German lines of communication.

The conference also agreed to make a joint inspection of the German lines of communication.

The conference also agreed to make a joint inspection of the German lines of communication.

The conference also agreed to make a joint inspection of the German lines of communication.

The conference also agreed to make a joint inspection of the German lines of communication.

The conference also agreed to make a joint inspection of the German lines of communication.

The conference also agreed to make a joint inspection of the German lines of communication.

The conference also agreed to make a joint inspection of the German lines of communication.

The conference also agreed to make a joint inspection of the German lines of communication.

The conference also agreed to make a joint inspection of the German lines of communication.

The conference also agreed to make a joint inspection of the German lines of communication.

The conference also agreed to make a joint inspection of the German lines of communication.

The conference also agreed to make a joint inspection of the German lines of communication.

The conference also agreed to make a joint inspection of the German lines of communication.

The conference also agreed to make a joint inspection of the German lines of communication.

The conference also agreed to make a joint inspection of the German lines of communication.

The conference also agreed to make a joint inspection of the German lines of communication.

The conference also agreed to make a joint inspection of the German lines of communication.

The conference also agreed to make a joint inspection of the German lines of communication.

The conference also agreed to make a joint inspection of the German lines of communication.

The conference also agreed to make a joint inspection of the German lines of communication.

The conference also agreed to make a joint inspection of the German lines of communication.

The conference also agreed to make a joint inspection of the German lines of communication.

The conference also agreed to make a joint inspection of the German lines of communication.

The conference also agreed to make a joint inspection of the German lines of communication.

The conference also agreed to make a joint inspection of the German lines of communication.

The conference also agreed to make a joint inspection of the German lines of communication.

The conference also agreed to make a joint inspection of the German lines of communication.

The conference also agreed to make a joint inspection of the German lines of communication.

The conference also agreed to make a joint inspection of the German lines of communication.

The conference also agreed to make a joint inspection of the German lines of communication.

The conference also agreed to make a joint inspection of the German lines of communication.

The conference also agreed to make a joint inspection of the German lines of communication.

The conference also agreed to make a joint inspection of the German lines of communication.

The conference also agreed to make a joint inspection of the German lines of communication.

The conference also agreed to make a joint inspection of the German lines of communication.

The conference also agreed to make a joint inspection of the German lines of communication.

The conference also agreed to make a joint inspection of the German lines of communication.

The conference also agreed to make a joint inspection of the German lines of communication.

The conference also agreed to make a joint inspection of the German lines of communication.

The conference also agreed to make a joint inspection of the German lines of communication.

The conference also agreed to make a joint inspection of the German lines of communication.

The conference also agreed to make a joint inspection of the German lines of communication.

The conference also agreed to make a joint inspection of the German lines of communication.

The conference also agreed to make a joint inspection of the German lines of communication.

The conference also agreed to make a joint inspection of the German lines of communication.

The conference also agreed to make a joint inspection of the German lines of communication.

The conference also agreed to make a joint inspection of the German lines of communication.

The conference also agreed to make a joint inspection of the German lines of communication.

The conference also agreed to make a joint inspection of the German lines of communication.

The conference also agreed to make a joint inspection of the German lines of communication.

The conference also agreed to make a joint inspection of the German lines of communication.

The conference also agreed to make a joint inspection of the German lines of communication.

The conference also agreed to make a joint inspection of the German lines of communication.

The conference also agreed to make a joint inspection of the German